

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 /054 W

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O R 261625Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0284

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IT, PO

SUBJECT: CUNHAL INTERVIEW BY ITALIAN CORRESPONDENTS IN LISBON

1. PRESS THIS MORNING REPORTS INTERVIEW IN AFTERNOON OF MARCH 25 WITH CUNHAL BY ITALIAN CORRESPONDENT IN LISBON. EXCERPTS FROM CUNHAL'S REMARKS ARE GENERALLY REPORTED AS DIRECT QUOTATIONS BUT WITH MANY VARIATIONS IN WORDING AND CONTEXT OBVIOUS IN SEVERAL VERSIONS. MORE SALIENT POINTS ARE SUMMARIZED OR INFORMALLY TRANSLATED IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS, WITH ITALIAN NEWSPAPER SOURCES NAMED.

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2. MOST PAPERS REPORT THAT CUNHAL EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THE ACTIONS OF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY ARE CREATING DIFFICULTIES FOR CUNHAL'S EUROPEAN COMRADES BUT IN MOST ACCOUNTS HE INDICATED HIS BELIEF THAT THE "PROGRESS" ACHIEVED BY THE "REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS" IN PORTUGAL WOULD FIND A RESPONSIVE AND SATISFYING CHORD IN THE HEARTS OF THE EUROPEAN COMRADES. IL TEMPO WENT FURTHER, ATTRIBUTING TO CUNHAL THE ADDITIONAL COMMENT, "BUT IN THE END OUR GAINS CAN ONLY HELP THE OTHER COMMUNIST PARTIES. IN FACT, WE ARE HELPING THE OTHER EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES TO ACHIEVE AND PUT INTO PRACTICE THEIR OWN ASPIRATIONS."

3. OF INTEREST TO ALL PAPERS IN ROME WERE CUNHAL'S REMARKS REGARDING THE POSITION TAKEN BY BERLINGUER AT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED PCI CONGRESS. GENERAL CONSENSUS (EXCEPT FOR UNITA) WAS THAT CUNHAL IDENTIFIED BERLINGUER BY NAME. CUNHAL SAID THAT, "CERTAIN CRITICISMS ARE NOT HELPFUL...WE UNDERSTAND THE ANXIETY OF OUR COMRADES ABROAD. ANXIETY IS JUSTIFIED, BECAUSE THE FUTURE OF OUR PEOPLE IS AT STAKE. WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE PERPLEXITY...THE PERPLEXITY EXPRESSED BY ENRICO BERLINGUER CONCERNING THE COMPORTMENT OF OUR PARTY STEMS FROM (HIS) LESS THAN COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPECIFIC PORTUGUESE SITUATION."

4. CUNHAL SAID THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS ARE THE KEY TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN PORTUGAL. CUNHAL SAID, "A DEMOCRATIC REGIME CANNOT BE REALIZED IN PORTUGAL IN THE PRESENCE OF THE POWER OF THE MONOPOLIES. TO GUARANTEE THE DEMOCRATIC REGIME OF OUR COUNTRY, WE ARE FORCED TO DEMOLISH THE MONOPOLIES. (HOWEVER) THE SOCIALISTS HOLD THAT A DEMOCRATIC REGIME CAN EXIST IN THE PRESENCE OF MONOPOLISTIC POWER (UNITA)." CUNHAL CONCLUDED, HOWEVER (IL TEMPO), THAT THE FIRST STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN AN EFFORT TO RENEW THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES.

5. WITH REGARD TO THE SUSPENSION OF THE PORTUGUESE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY, CUNHAL SAID THAT ONE SHOULD NOT EXAGGERATE: "THESE WERE MINOR MEASURES (IL TEMPO). THE ITALIAN PEOPLE WHO HAVE PERSONALLY ENDURED FASCISM WILL CERTAINLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE HAPPIER TO BE ABLE TO CRITICIZE THE MEASURES TAKEN BY PORTUGAL AGAINST THIS (CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC) PARTY, INSTEAD OF HAVING TO CRITICIZE THE BLOODY CONSEQUENCES WHICH THE (MARCH 11) PLOT WOULD HAVE HAD, AND IN WHICH THE DC WAS IMPLICATED. THERE WOULD HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF DEAD AND GRIEVING (UNITA)...PORTUGUESE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY SHOULD NOT BE COMPARED TO THE ITALIAN DC OR THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS OF OTHER COUNTRIES (LA NAZIONE)...WE ARE DETERMINED TO

PREVENT THE REPETITION HERE OF THE TRAGEDY OF CHILE (IL GIORNALE)."

6. COMMUNIST UNITA REPORTED THE CUNHAL INTERVIEW FAIRLY STRAIGHT AND FAIRLY COMPLETELY, WITH ONLY THE EXPECTED TEMPERING OF A PHRASE HERE AND THERE, AND THE FAILURE TO RELATE CUNHAL'S CRITICISM TO BERLINGUER BY NAME. AT THE END OF THE UNITA PIECE, HOWEVER, UNITA FELT CONTRAINED TO ADD A DEFENSIVE COMMENT AS FOLLOWS: "ALL OF OUR EVALUATIONS AND POSITIONS HAVE BEEN AND ARE INSPIRED ABOVE ALL BY OUR DEEP SYMPATHY AND AFFECTION FOR OUR COMRADES OF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY, WHO WITH THEIR TENACIOUS AND HEROIC STRUGGLE HAVE MADE SUCH A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFEAT OF THE SALAZAR TYRANNY; AND THEY ARE INSPIRED AT THE SAME TIME BY A CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT, IN THAT WE FIRMLY DESIRE THAT THE NEW PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY BE ASSURED THE MOST SOLID BASIS, THROUGH THE BROADEST CONSENSUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL FORCES AND THE PEOPLE." BEAUDRY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMMUNISTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ROME04470  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750105-1068  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750313/aaaaalrq.tel  
**Line Count:** 133  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <17 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CUNHAL INTERVIEW BY ITALIAN CORRESPONDENTS IN LISBON  
**TAGS:** PFOR, IT, PO, (CUNHAL, ALVARO)  
**To:** STATE LISBON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006